

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, CB, PLOS

SUBJECT: GKR CREDENTIALS AT 29 TH UNGA

1. SUMMARY. AT HIS REQUEST I MET WITH GKR FOREIGN MINISTER KEUKY LIM FOR NEARLY TWO HOURS JUNE 24. DCM ALSO PRESENT. I RAISED A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS, WHICH ARE BEING REPORTED SEPTELS. LIM'S PRIMARY CONCERN WAS OVER THE GKR'S PROSPECTS IN THE CREDENTIALS FIGHT ANTICIPATED FOR THE 29TH UNGA. THE GKR'S BOX-SCORE ON THE PROBABLE OUTCOME HAS MADE THEM DISCOURAGED. THEY ARE THEREFORE LOOKING AROUND FOR SOME WAY TO RESCUE THE SITUATION, AND HAVE NATURALLY TURNED TO US. LIM SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS AN APPROACH TO THE CHINESE WOULD CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY AND THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO VOTE TO DEFER THE ISSUE. I SPIKED THAT IDEA RIGHT AWAY AND MADE A COUNTER-SUGGESTION THAT THE GKR IMPROVE ITS CASE BY ISSUING A HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENT, AT THE RIGHT TIME AND IN THE RIGHT PLACE, OFFERING TO TALK TO THE OTHER SIDE ANYTIME, ANY PLACE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. THE OTHER SIDE WOULD SURELY REFUSE AND WOULD BEAR THE ONUS OF BEING INTRANSIGENT AND UNREASONABLE. END SUMMARY.

2. LIM, WHO HAD JUST BEEN CONFERRING THE PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET, ASKED FOR OUR BOX-SCORE ON THE PROBABLE
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VOTING AT THE 29TH UNGA ON THE QUESTION OF DEFERRING

THE GKR CREDENTIALS CHALLENGE, I DEFLECTED HIS QUERY BY SAYING THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A BOX-SCORE, AS THE POSITIONS OF A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAVEN'T HARDENED YET. (I FEARED NEGATIVE COUNT BY US WOULD SIMPLY CONFIRM THE GKR'S GLOOM AND CAUSE THEM TO GIVE UP.) LIM THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT ACCORDING TO THEIR COUNT THE GKR WAS BEHIND BY 9 TO 11 VOTES ON THE POSTPONEMENT QUESTION. HE ASKED WHAT WE, THE USG, COULD DO TO PREVENT A SETBACK.

3. LIM THEN OFFERED HIS OWN SUGGESTION, HE SAID THE KEY TO THE SITUATION WOULD APPEAR TO LIE IN CHINA, AND THE ONLY WAY TO PREVENT THE EXPULSION OF HIS GOVERNMENT FROM THE UN WOULD BE TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT WERE UNDERWAY. I RESPONDED WITH SOME SHARPNESS THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DANGEROUS TO TRY TO MAKE PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT NEGOTIATIONS WERE UNDERWAY WHEN THEY REALLY WEREN'T, AS THIS COULD BACKFIRE BADLY. AS FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS GETTING UNDERWAY IN TIME TO AFFECT THE UNGA OUTCOME, I SAID THAT WOULD DEPEND ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, ON THE MILITARY BALANCE WITHIN CAMBODIA. I SAID THAT EVERY PARTY SHOULD DO WHAT IS IN ITS POWER TO DO. TALKING TO THE CHINESE IS NOT WITHIN THE POWER OF THE GKR, BUT THERE WERE OTHER THINGS THEY COULD DO THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

4. FIRSTLY, I SAID, THE GKR SHOULD CONTINUE THE PRESENT FAVORABLE TREND IN THE MILITARY FIELD, BY KEEPING ITS FORCES ON THE INITIATIVE AND MAKING STEADY PROGRESS AGAINST THE ENEMY. SECONDLY, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME AND IN AN APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT, THE GKR COULD ISSUE A SOLEMN DECLARATION, AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, SETTING FORTH ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. SUCH A STATEMENT COULD DECLARE THE GKR'S WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH THE OTHER SIDE ANYTIME, ANYPLACE, AND INSTEAD OF HAVING IT A PRECONDITION FOR SUCH TALKS THAT ALL FOREIGN FORCES SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE COUNTRY, THE STATEMENT COULD SET THIS AS A HOPEFUL RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE KHMER TO RESOLVE

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THEIR PROBLEMS BY THEMSELVES. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL FOR THE UNGA FIGHT, I SAID, AND IT WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS WILLING TO SUPPORT AND/OR LOBBY FOR THE GKR. THE ONUS WOULD THEN FALL ON THE OTHER SIDE FOR THE FAILURE OF TALKS TO TAKE PLACE.

5. LIM SAID HE AGREED ENTIRELY ABOUT THE UTILITY OF SUCH A STATEMENT, AND HE WAS PREPARED TO MAKE SUCH

A STATEMENT HIMSELF NOW. I SAID THAT THE RIGHT TIME AND THE RIGHT OCCASION HAD TO BE CHOSEN CAREFULLY, AND THE STATEMENT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE MADE AT THE RIGHT LEVEL. A PRE-DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER RIGHT NOW WOULD NOT SERVE THE PURPOSE.

6. COMMENT: LIM, CLEARLY SPEAKING FOR THE PRIME MINISTER, EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN OVER THE SERIOUS INTERNAL POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM AN UNFAVORABLE OUTCOME AT THE UNGA. THEIR COUNT OF THE VOTES SEEMS TO GET WORSE EACH TIME THEY MAKE ONE (LAST WEEK LIM ESTIMATED THEY WERE 5 OR 6 VOTES BEHIND). I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THEY NOT THROW IN THE SPONGE PERMATURELY OR THE OUTCOME WILL BE SETTLED NEGATIVELY, AND LONG BEFORE IT NEEDS TO BE, BY THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO CARRY ON. A DEFEAT AT THE LOS CONFERENCE WOULD OF COURSE CAUSE FURTHER DISCOURAGEMENT, AND MUST THEREFORE BE AVOIDED AT ALL COST.

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